

Reflection Questions

Doctrine (What does this passage teach us):

Does this passage contradict justification by faith alone?

Reproof (What wrong thinking does this passage expose):

Why do many of these lists in the Bible include sexual sins?

Correction (How does this passage fix wrong thinking):

If the sins you struggle with are not listed does that mean that they are not works of the flesh?

Instruction in Righteousness (How does this passage help us to continue):

How does this list remind us of our past struggles?

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Ephesians 2:1-10

Song #223 ~ Amazing Grace

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Genesis 27:1-46

Song #242 ~ Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy

Scripture Reading: Genesis 28:1-22

Prayer

Sermon ~ Galatians 5:19-21

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #133 ~ He Will Hold Me Fast

Galatians 5:16

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the
desire of the flesh

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Text: Galatians 5:19-21

Theme: Justification and sanctification are by faith apart from the works of the Law (Gal. 3:3).

Introduction: Justification *is* by faith alone. But not all who claim to have faith truly have faith. Christ warns that not all who say, “Lord, Lord” will enter the kingdom (Matt. 7:21). Perhaps you have been clinging to a prayer you made for your salvation, but you never truly had saving faith.

I. Be warned! If you walk according to the flesh then you do not have the Spirit dwelling within you (19-21; cf. Rom. 8:5).

A. The works of the flesh are obvious (19).

Explanation: This list is not meant to be exhaustive. Instead, the sins of the flesh are obvious, because they are in contrast to the fruit that the Spirit produces.

Application: Although the works of the flesh are obvious, we still justify our own sin. What are some sins in your life that you have justified?

1. Immorality is a work of the flesh (19).

Explanation: The first 3 listed refer to all manner of sexual sins. Paul tells us that God gives people over to sexual sins when they suppress the knowledge of God (Rom. 1:24, 26-27).

2. Idolatry is a work of the flesh (20).

Explanation: Idolatry is worshipping the creation rather than the Creator (Rom. 1:21-25). But what about witchcraft (20)? Witchcraft attempts to use sorcery to change the circumstance.

3. Selfishness is a work of the flesh (20-21).

Explanation: Several of these refer specifically to conflict between 2 or more people (i.e. hostilities, strife, outbursts of anger, dissensions, factions). This conflict comes because of selfishness which Paul contrasts with humility (Phil. 2:3). Paul explains humility as looking out for the interests of others (Phil. 2:4) or considering others as more important than yourself (Phil. 2:3). Humility is the complete opposite of selfishness.

Application: But how do we serve others? This humility, which was modeled by Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:5), does not originate with the flesh.

4. There are many more works of the flesh (21).

Explanation: Anything that is contrary to the fruit that the Spirit produces is a work of the flesh.

Application: Do you find yourself justifying your actions because the Bible doesn't explicitly condemn that action? Just because something is not condemned in Scripture does not mean that

B. Those who live according to the flesh will not inherit the Kingdom of God (21; cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

1. Is Paul now describing justification by works (21)?

Explanation: No. Instead, Paul is warning that those who live according to the flesh do not have the Spirit dwelling within them (cf. 13).

2. Living according to the flesh is a mark of someone who has not been justified (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Explanation: In 1 Cor. 6:9-10, Paul gives a similar list of living according to the flesh. But this time, he reminds the Corinthian believers that they no longer walk according to the flesh. Instead, they have been washed.

Conclusion: When the Holy Spirit dwells within you, the natural result is that your life is now marked by fruit that the Holy Spirit produces.